(a) whether it is a fact that many important files of Ministry of Defence including a file relating to defence purchase deal are missing and as a result of which the investigation being conducted by the Central Vigilance Commission is hampered;

(b) if so, the number of the missing files and the related matters thereof;

(c) whether Government are making efforts to search the said files; if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether any action is being taken against the persons responsible for maintenance of these files; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) As on date, as per the available records, 4 files relating to defence purchase deals are still being traced. As regards, the file relating to banning of middlemen/ agents/middle companies in the procurement of weapons and weapon systems, the same has since been retrieved and sent to the Central Vigilance Commission on July 21, 2000.

Air crashes

†320. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR:
SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of MIG aircrafts which met with accidents during the last three years and the current year, so far, year-wise;

(b) the number of pilots died and wounded in these accidents;

(c) whether any thorough enquiry of these accidents has ever been conducted;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and whether any technical fault has been detected in these MIG aircrafts; and

(e) whether Government propose to take any steps to prevent such accidents of fighter aircrafts meant to defend the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b)

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.